

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, October 1, 2001

Present: Billis, Dumond, Hornus, Mehig, Ockerman, Runyan.

Absent: Bayless (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Gene Sanderson; Dick Sanderson; Arnie Jessen; Judy Horton; Larry LeCureux; Gregg Brichan; Chris Taute; Don Runyon; Robert Gilman; Judie Strauch; Karen Johnson; John DeGood; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Jeremy Boyd, Treasurer; Steve Kirnovic, Abraham & Gaffney; Frank Svrcek; Pat Yott; Dawn Johnson; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Mike Hazelton, The Independent; Tom Wazny (arrived at 8:40 p.m.); and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Billis at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to approve the agenda as presented by changing Item No. 13) Executive Session-Land Acquisition to Item No. 14 and adding Item No. 13) Newsletter.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Mehig, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Hornus, Mehig, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer reviewed his manager's report with council and with those in the audience.

PRESENTATION BY ABRAHAM & GAFFNEY, P.C., 2000/2001 AUDIT: Steve Kirnovic from Abraham & Gaffney, P.C. presented and reviewed the city's 2000/2001 audit. He explained the city has received a clean or unqualified opinion, which is the best possible

opinion the city can get if the city goes out for bonding or grants because this opinion is what people want to see. He further explained the city's general fund has a balance of \$435,000, which is the amount available for current expenditures. The rule of thumb that has been discussed in the past is to have eight to twelve percent of the annual expenditures sitting in fund equity, and the city has approximately 30-percent of the annual expenditures sitting in the general fund. Mr. Kirnovic advised the historical commission ended the fiscal year in a deficit. He further advised the city loaned the historical commission money from the general fund to move the Kribs home two or three years ago, which has caused the deficit. Councilperson Dumond stated he thought a repayment schedule was set up last year, which took care of the deficit. Mr. Kirnovic advised the historical commission has been making payments and assumed that this should not be an issue next year. He further advised state law states that a city is not allowed to have funds in a deficit. Councilperson Ockerman asked if a letter would be sent to the historical commission to advise them about the deficit status, and what they should be doing to alleviate the deficit. Mr. Sawyer advised the historical commission also has an audit done and the deficit would show in their audit. Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to accept and place on file the 2000/2001 City of Corunna audit by Abraham & Gaffney, P.C.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehig, Dumond, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2001/2002 LOCAL STREET PROJECT: Ockerman moved, Runyan seconded to approve the 2001/2002 Kingsley and McArthur Local Street Projects, and award the bid to Perrin Construction Company for \$50,926 to be paid for from line item 203-453-818.000 and authorize the mayor to execute the contract.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF MICHIGAN FOR THE PARK RESTROOM FACILITY: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 01-09-17-01

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF MICHIGAN FOR THE MCCURDY PARK RESTROOM FACILITY

“RESOLVED, that the City of Corunna, Michigan, does hereby accept the terms of the Agreement as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and that the City of Corunna Council does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

1. To appropriate the sum of Thirty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty Two (\$39,242) dollars to match the grant authorized by the DEPARTMENT and to appropriate such additional funds as shall be necessary to complete the project.
2. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available to the DEPARTMENT for auditing at reasonable times.
3. To construct the project and provide such funds, services, and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of said Agreement.
4. To regulate the use of the facility constructed and reserved under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.
5. To comply with any and all terms of said Agreement including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution.”

Mr. Sawyer advised the city received a Clean Michigan Initiative Grant in the amount of \$156,970, which includes the city’s match. He further advised \$117,728 is part of the grant so the city’s match is \$39,242. The engineering work and blueprints are done so everything is ready to be sent to the state so they can start bidding out the project. He also advised the resolution basically states the city is going to pay its fair share of the project and that money has been set aside, which has been done. Mr. Sawyer stated the utilities were not budgeted in the initial grant application, and this is an issue that he and Mr. Crawford are working on. He further stated the project would be bid with the utilities included. He also stated the intent is to have the city do the utility work in order to save \$20,000.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Mehig, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER IN-LINE SKATE RINK REVENUES DEPOSIT FUND: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to deposit 3/5 of the In-Line Skate Rink League Fee proceeds in the Parks Improvement Fund to be restricted for repairs, maintenance, and improvements to the rink, with the balance of 2/5 to be deposited into the Parks & Recreation Department. Councilperson Mehig asked what the revenue cost per player was. Ms. Washburn advised she did not know but there are approximately 240 kids in the youth league. Councilperson Runyan asked if the 3/5 was from the gross or from net. Ms. Washburn advised 3/5 of the \$5.00 fee. Mr. Sawyer advised if there are 300 players between the youth and adult league the total revenue would be \$1,500. He further advised a line item was created for the in-line skate rink but no revenue was budgeted. Councilperson Runyan stated in other words the city would take 3/5 of the \$5.00 league fee but not from any profits made at the concession stand. Mr. Sawyer advised the concession stand issue has not been addressed yet. Councilperson Ockerman stated Councilperson Bayless is not here and Ms. Washburn’s recommendation that council passed before was to keep \$5.00 instead of \$6.00. Councilperson Ockerman asked what council did that the parks

and recreation commission did not like. Ms. Washburn advised the commission want to make sure that the money is put in a special account for rink improvements and not put in the general fund. Councilperson Ockerman stated that was fine, but there are streets in the park that have to be plowed, and it is up to council to decide what is to be done with the money. It is not like the city is looking at making any money, but the city is trying to offset some of its expenses. He further stated in effect the commission is telling the council just exactly where the money is going to go, and asked if this was the commission's real intent. Ms. Washburn advised Mr. Bayless brought the issue to the parks and recreation commission, and the commission agreed to return the issue back to the city council with a recommendation, so it is up to council how to handle that money. The money was not restricted when the fees were set up. Councilperson Mehig asked if anything states that the league cannot charge \$7.00 or \$8.00 per player and use the extra money to help control some of the park costs. Ms. Washburn advised no because the contract states the league has to pay the city \$5.00, but they can charge the players \$20.00. She further advised this has nothing to do with the hockey league so leave them out of it. This came from a city councilperson and some of the parks and recreation members. Mayor Billis asked how the 3/5 came to be the request and what logic was put behind the 3/5. Ms. Washburn advised the commission figured that some of the revenue should be set aside for improvements. Mr. Sawyer advised the parks and recreation commission did not get into that issue. The commission just recommended that the money go into the Parks Improvements Fund period. He further advised he thought Councilperson Bayless made the recommendation that not all of the money would go into the Parks Improvement Fund so some of the money could be used for operational expenses. Mayor Billis stated he could see both sides of the issue. The parks and recreation commission want to make sure that the hockey fee money is not managed badly. He further stated there are more costs involved in taking care of the hockey rink such as maintaining the road, gravel, etc. He also stated he did not know if 3/5 was a happy median or not. Mr. Sawyer advised that Councilperson Bayless relayed to him that he was not personally set on the 3/5. It was just a proposal. Mr. Sawyer further advised Councilperson Bayless also suggested there might be merit in splitting the money three ways. Mr. Sawyer also advised the city council has complete control of the fund and nothing will get spent from this fund without coming through the city council first. Councilperson Ockerman stated this issue was addressed six weeks ago, and evidently, Mr. Bayless did not agree so this issue was back on the table again. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city attorney had to review anything. Mr. Sawyer advised no. Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus.

No: Ockerman, Runyan, Mehig.

Motion DEFEATED

CONSIDER MITCHELL SOFTBALL COMPLEX LEASE AGREEMENT: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the five-year lease agreement for the Mitchell and Larry Franks Fields with the Softball Commission as presented. Councilperson Ockerman stated he was really bothered by a five-year lease and thought it was utterly ridiculous. He has read the minutes, and he did not think this was asked for nor was it necessary for the so-called tournament that might come up. He also stated he would like to get some

input from Ms. Washburn if there were no objections. Ms. Washburn stated she has spent a lot of years and time down at the Mitchell Fields. She further stated she had several problems. She thought it would have been more appropriate for the softball commission to talk to Mr. Sawyer and herself regarding what the softball commission was planning to do, and what the commission was asking for, but this did not happen. It was brought to the parks and recreation commission on Thursday night and added to the agenda. She also stated she was unprepared to really state anything, and she did not have time to look at the agreement. Ms. Washburn advised the one thing she found was the \$10.00 fee for the fields. The city has raised the bar now for everybody else who is using the park. She further advised since the city is going to start charging other people \$5.00 per person then the softball commission should be held to the same bar. She also advised the little league money comes directly to the city and goes directly into the little league fund. All payments are made by the city. Ms. Washburn explained it was not just the softball commission. All the money that the parks and recreation commission make for all the hard work they do they get pennies on their dollars also goes into the city coffers. She further explained there is no special recognition for them to do what they want to do. She also explained she is in the process of writing a contract for the Fourth of July of which she will be asking for a monetary value. Ms. Washburn advised the other problem she had was she wants a guarantee on the times the little league will play on both of those fields. Last year, there was a problem, but she did not know if there was miscommunication or what except that we had some leagues that had to forfeit because a softball group was using the fields. She further advised according to the person hired by the softball commission there was a miscommunication, and she was not going to say there was not nor was she placing the blame anywhere, but she was just saying that is the way she was looking at it. She also advised she has a problem with the income from the concession stands, which is not being dealt with and should be. According to the information Mr. Schooley put together for the roller rink people when they asked about running a concession stand, they should expect a 53 percent profit. Ms. Washburn stated when you multiply 53 percent in with the expenditures; there is \$1,400 there that maybe we can visit. She further stated she has been in touch with one of the state commissioners, and she wanted it understood that she did not call him; he called her not knowing what the picking order was in the city and who was running the softball fields. She also stated the state commissioner informed her that their greatest interest is not a long term contract and having gone to nationals she was never asked in all of the presentations who owned the fields or do you have a long term contract. There was never a question of that given to us at that time, and it may have changed, but she is not aware of the change. Ms. Washburn advised the state commissioner was more interested in the complex, housing, and the quality of the fields and that is another reason he called her. So she is just giving council what she feels are some things that really need to be addressed as far as the contract is concerned. She further advised the other thing she has concerns about is that she does not think that it is the city's responsibility to keep the trash picked up down there. Ms. Washburn stated, "I feel this is the complex's responsibility because we always used to do it because it was housekeeping, and we were always responsible for it." She further stated, "I think the other thing is that there will be a date that I can guarantee you that those fields will not be available on a weekend in August. I don't know what dates you are going for as far as nationals are concerned, but

we do have a date set aside for an event including McCurdy Park and those fields are to be open for the city to use at that time.” She also stated those are some of the concerns that she has and the maintenance of the building inside and out again that was always our responsibility. We took that upon ourselves to do with the funding that we took in. Ms. Washburn advised, “I just think that there is a lot of things that maybe not that we could not have come to an agreement, and please do not misunderstand, but I am saying that maybe if I had an opportunity to sit down and talk it over we would not be having this conversation now.” Mayor Billis asked if the lease agreement came to the city council based on a motion by the parks and recreation. Ms. Washburn advised yes. She thought Bill Graham made the motion to present the agreement to the council, but she did not know who seconded the motion. She further advised the agreement was brought to the parks and recreation commission for their recommendation. Councilperson Ockerman stated he had several items and thanked Ms. Washburn for her input. He further stated he asked Mr. Sawyer to get him some information, and with the way he does business now it was pretty easily available. Councilperson Ockerman further stated he has asked what the park itself cost the city and Mr. Sawyer came up with a figure of \$180,000 a year. There are revenues of \$40,000 so we net \$140,000. He also stated the softball program is a recreation that is needed; however, he was pretty sure that 90 percent or greater of the people who participate in the softball program do not live in the city. Ms. Washburn advised that was probably true. Councilperson Ockerman stated if this is the case, he wondered where the fairness was. He further stated he wanted to know how many people who do not reside in the city play ball. The reason this is important is because maybe we need some kind of a charge that is fair for someone who does not reside in the city. Any citizen that lives in the city pays \$42.00 per year for that park, which is part of the complex. He also stated he felt the Larry Frank Memorial Field should be left as Hugh McCurdy donated to the park because he does not want this part of the Mitchell complex and adult softball. Councilperson Ockerman advised the city lost one little league field last year, and the kids need a place to go. He further advised he did not understand why the city is responsible for fertilizing the outfields, spraying the area, providing all the equipment used to maintain normal operation, picking up the trash, and providing the softball commission with a mower to cut the fields. In addition, the city is paying as determined approximately \$9,000 a year for the maintenance of the park complex, and if there is vandalism, the city takes care of it. He also advised the city council does not have enough information. A long-term lease is something he was totally opposed to, and he would really like to know the number of outsiders who play ball here so something can be done that is equitable for everyone. Councilperson Mehig stated there is a lack of security, use of language, and alcohol, but he did not know what the rules are. He further stated he agreed with Ms. Washburn that council needed to come up with some guidelines that everyone can live with. He also stated he did not believe in a five-year contract because too many things can change. Ms. Washburn advised at one time the softball commission shared the care taking with the city. The commission bought machinery and shared it with the city. The equipment was used on the fields, and the city used the equipment down in the park. Chris Taute stated, “Didn’t we pay for the last mower out of our budget?” Councilperson Ockerman stated, “I object.” Ms. Washburn advised she was not sure, but she knows that the softball commission used to buy a mower that was used on the fields. She believed the softball commission and city each

paid for a portion of the mower, and if you look back in your financial reports, you will see that expenses were shared on that mower. Councilperson Ockerman advised the softball commission made a \$5,000 profit this year too, and it just seems that too big of a burden is put on the city. He further advised he believed that Mr. Mitchell paid for everything to put the softball fields up, and it is his understanding that it is up to the city to maintain fences but not bases or home plates. Ms. Washburn advised when council agreed to accept Mr. Mitchell's money to build the softball fields, Mr. Mitchell wanted a guarantee that the city would maintain them. Councilperson Ockerman stated that is pretty broad. Mayor Billis stated what he heard from Ms. Washburn was that based on the folks from the state a long-term lease was not needed to guarantee that a tournament would be brought here. Mr. Sawyer stated a long-term lease is not needed to schedule a tournament unless there is some fear that there will not be a field to schedule a tournament. Councilperson Runyan stated normally when there is a recommendation to the city council from a commission there is a reason given for the recommendation, but there are no reasons on record for this recommendation.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus.

No: Runyan, Mehig, Ockerman, Dumond.

Motion DEFEATED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STREETSCAPE FLAG BANNER: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the streetscape flag banners in the amount of \$3,167.50 to be paid for from line item 530-557-740.000.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Hornus, Mehig, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER CORRECTIONS TO STREETSCAPE ASSESSMENT ROLL: Ockerman moved, Runyan seconded to adjust and re-confirm the Streetscape Special Assessment roll in the amount of \$116,441.66 and instruct the city clerk and assessor to levy the assessment. Mr. Sawyer advised during the public hearing the special assessment roll was confirmed in the amount of \$108,752.35. There was instruction during the public hearing, which is reflected in the minutes, to adjust the roll for any individuals who have placed new sidewalks within the previous three years, and to see if there was some way to accommodate Mrs. Ritter who has a great deal of frontage on West Mack Street that the library has used as a parking lot for many years.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehig, Dumond, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MCARTHUR STREET SIDEWALK AND DRAIN BASIN:

Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to approve the McArthur Street sidewalk/approach work in the amount of \$5,850.00 and the McArthur Street drain basin addition in the amount of \$875.00 to be paid from line item 517-550-818.000. Mr. Sawyer stated this

work would not widen the curb cut at two locations. He further stated no estimate has been received yet. Councilperson Ockerman stated it makes good sense to do the curb cuts at the same time and asked what had to be done to extend the curb cuts. Mr. Sawyer advised the motion could be amended by adding "to include a two or three foot widening of each curb cut opening for a cost not to exceed \$2,000." Councilperson Ockerman stated he would like to amend his motion if his second concurred. Councilperson Hornus concurred.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER 193, HANDICAP PARKING-FIRST PARKING SPACE EAST OF SHIAWASSEE STREET ON OLIVER STREET, NORTH SIDE:

Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to rescind traffic control order number 58 (lifting no parking restriction on the north side of the 100 block of East Oliver between Shiawassee Street and the alley), approve traffic control order number 194 (creating a no parking restriction on the south side of the 100 block of East Oliver between Shiawassee Street and the alley) and approve traffic control order number 193 (designating the parking space furthest to the west on the north side of the 100 block of East Oliver between Shiawassee Street and the alley as handicapped parking only).

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Mehigh, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO CORUNNA HISTORICAL COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2003:

Hornus moved, Runyan seconded to appoint John Austin to the Corunna Historical Commission for a term beginning upon the taking of the oath and continuing until December 31, 2003, or until a successor is appointed.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER CLARIFICATION ON PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR EX-OFFICIO

STATUS: Mr. Sawyer stated the original motion for the ex-officio status named certain commissions and all other commissions to be named in the future. The planning commission was not one of the commissions that was specifically named, but he did not know if it was council's intent to have Ms. Washburn serve on the planning commission as an ex-officio member. Councilperson Ockerman stated on his behalf it would be absolutely no because he does not see any correlation at all, and he did not think Ms. Washburn wanted it. Ms. Washburn advised she has enough. Councilperson Ockerman stated a motion was not needed unless someone wanted to make one.

NEWSLETTER: Councilperson Ockerman explained the newsletter was developed two years

ago and the intent of the council then was to approve the newsletter before it is sent out. He further explained it is now time to make any corrections that council feels is necessary. Councilperson Mehig stated one item he saw was on the backside deals with the ambulance. He further stated he had no problem except the reasons should be addressed for the change, especially in lieu of the letter that Mr. Sawyer published that listed some of the violations. Councilperson Mehig also stated he did not know if it was necessary to list all of the violations, but some of the violations should be highlighted. Councilperson Mehig advised the people should know what is going on so they understand the issues better, and the reasons for the board change should be given. Councilperson Ockerman concurred. If things are left the same then obviously there is no need to explain the reasons, but if someone should want to change the board then there should be reasons given so the public can make up their mind. Councilperson Ockerman advised he and Councilperson Mehig talked to Mr. Sawyer, and Mr. Sawyer came forward with certain items regarding the ambulance agreement. What Councilperson Mehig has mentioned are things that are direct contract violations that is in existence such as failure to maintain accurate books and records, failure to make records available for inspection, failure to perform annual audits, violation of board of director's membership, violation of ambulance increased charges, and failure to provide operating budgets. Councilperson Ockerman further advised Mr. Wazny's title should be listed out of respect since he is the Caledonia Township Supervisor. Councilperson Ockerman also advised that Mr. Bayless is the council representative from the City of Corunna, and Councilperson Ockerman believed that Mr. Bayless is the chairman of the ambulance board but not the president. Mr. Sawyer advised Mr. Bayless is president of the ambulance board since it is a corporation. Councilperson Ockerman stated the article did not mention that the operation manager has a vote and this should be stated in the article because that is one of the violations that have occurred during the last two years. He further stated we are not trying to be nasty about it or tell the people what kind of financial shape the ambulance service is in, but we need to tell people that these are the reasons why the changes are being proposed. Councilperson Runyan stated he had a comment about the article in the middle section under city elections. There are a lot of people in the city that still do not realize that they can vote citywide. He further stated people can vote for candidates in all three wards instead of just in their own ward, and this information should be added to the article. Councilperson Ockerman stated if there are any objections to what he or anyone else has said to please state it and if there were no objections then he would like to have Mr. Sawyer redo the newsletter and make sure the council is called before the newsletters are mailed out. Councilperson Ockerman asked when the newsletter would be mailed. Ms. Long advised this week. Ockerman moved, Mehig seconded to have Mr. Sawyer make the changes to the newsletter and to make sure that council gets a phone call with the changes. Mr. Sawyer stated he contacted Councilperson Bayless to ask him about the manager issue and Councilperson Bayless' proposal eliminates that position from voting also. Mr. Sawyer further stated that Councilperson Bayless' proposal was also proposing changes to the membership, which is different from the changes that Supervisor Wazny is proposing.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Mehig, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Gene Sanderson stated the downtown area is looking really nice. Some people have put new doors in their building and the Cavalier Bar has been painted. He asked if some of the city's money could be used to tear out the raggedy bushes in front of city hall, put in some nice shrubbery and dirt and maybe trim the trees along the riverbank to get this area right here a nice look. Mr. Sanderson further stated the weeds in front of the building take a lot away from this end of town. Maybe the city can get a discount on trees and have a little work bee to put the trees in. Mr. Sawyer advised everything in front of the building would be gone next year with the bridge project. There will be new concrete approaches, a picnic grass area, and the parking will go away since this is all part of the bridge project.

Don Runyon stated some of the handicapped parking has disappeared from Shiawassee Street and asked where it went. Mayor Billis stated there has to be so many parking spaces and asked Mr. Crawford if this was correct. Mr. Sawyer advised not all of the signs are up yet. Mr. Runyon advised he read in the paper where you guys got a raise and are making \$20 per hour. He further advised this has been discussed before and someone said that Mr. Runyan has to run his gamut before anybody will get a raise, and he wanted to make sure you guys were not getting extra bread.

Gene Sanderson asked if there was any chance that one or two parking spaces could be eliminated at McNeil Street, and the same way here at Corunna Avenue to make a right turn lane. The streetlight was red the other day and he was backed up to the bridge because there were so many cars and probably five of them made a right turn. He stated at the light at McNeil Street there is enough room for maybe one car to go around that last parking space, but if one of the parking spaces were eliminated then the cars would not be backed up to Williams Street. Mayor Billis stated he heard that before as being a concern because people are use to pulling into a second lane to make a right turn.

Judy Horton stated she thought Mack Street was the cause of the problem right now because nobody can turn left or right anymore. Everyone is being forced to go down to the traffic light.

Councilperson Runyan stated nobody can get into the left turn lane going south until the person gets past the double yellow line. He further stated people are getting into that lane prior to the time that they should. He was going to make a left turn at the stop light to go east and waited until he had an opening, but the person driving the car behind him blew by him since the person knew that was the left turn lane. He further stated there is a potential to have accidents at that area. Mayor Billis stated the state does everything in their power to educate people when there is a new sign and that is what the city is going through in a lot of areas. He further stated the traffic pattern has been changed and there are some things that people have to get use to.

Chris Taute, softball commission secretary, stated he wanted to give a little bit of information. Ms. Washburn knows that the softball commission use to employ city

employees and the commission entered into contracts with them, but it was not very fun sometimes. He further stated the softball commission has taken the burden off the city by maintaining all three of the fields. The commission does buy mowers. In fact, on the agenda two weeks from now the commission is going to talk about buying another new mower. He also stated as far as maintaining the facilities down there, the commission knows we do not show in our budgets that we are doing maintenance, but a lot of the stuff is done voluntarily. The concession stands needs a new roof. Erb Lumber has donated all of the materials and if it does not rain this Saturday, the roof will be put on for free. We do work down there that you might not see in the budget. Mr. Taute advised the commission did make \$5,000 this year, but \$4,500 of this money has to go into the Larry Franks Field. This was money that was matched from our golf scramble that Modern Woodmen Insurance matched and it has to go to that field for improvements. This is two years worth of the commission's money that has to go to that field. He further advised the players pay \$25 per person to play in the league down there and a team pays \$450 per team. The commission has \$5,000 but \$4,500 will be put into the field in the park. He asked council what they wanted the commission to do with the last \$500 or should they give it to the city because he did not know if the city wants \$42 a person to play ball down there. He also advised you are probably right that 90 percent of the players do not live in the city. Mr. Taute stated he would have to get with Gary Schooley and look at all the registers to see who lives where. The commission would like to bid a tournament and get the same tournaments back here because it is a potential of 64 teams, which is about 700 players. If the players bring their spouse, there will be at least 1,000 people in the city for a weekend to spend some money. He further stated he thought it would be great to get kids down here, and as far as the conflict with the little league on the Larry Franks Field, he thought that was something that could be worked out. He thought there were some scheduling problems. He also stated the commission will be discussing the league rules in two weeks. There use to be some problems with the league directors not enforcing the rules down there as far as the alcohol and noise. Mr. Taute explained the concerns that are brought up are addressed, and he wished that council would come to a softball meeting and listen to the discussion because a lot of this stuff is discussed. Mayor Billis stated it would be an exciting to bring one of the tournaments into the city. As Ms. Washburn indicated after she talked to the people from the state about a long-term lease, maybe the softball commission was not aware that a long-term lease was not needed. He further stated there is no doubt in his mind that the softball commission will get a lease, but it sounds like Mr. Sawyer and Ms. Washburn need to sit down with the softball commission and negotiate a lease that can be brought to the city council that might have a chance of being accepted. Mr. Taute advised he has been on the softball commission for 15 years, and until just a few weeks ago, he did not know the commission had a lease with the city. He has the record books since the commission was chartered in 1992, and there was no lease in that book so he did not even know the commission had to do that. He further advised he could not understand why the commission had to lease a field that the commission is running for the city, but he guessed that is some protocol that somebody has. Councilperson Runyan stated he remembers when there use to be games at the fields every night. He asked Mr. Taute what has caused the decline and if other sports contributed to the decline, but he did not want to put Mr. Taute on the spot. Mr. Taute advised having soccer as a sport and

computers have definitely affected softball. Kids do not play softball, and he thought the average age of a softball player is about 30 years old. Most of the teams do not have players that are 35 years old or older. He further advised there is no young people playing softball, and he did not know what the future of softball would be. Mayor Billis advised the golf league juniors are up. Mr. Taute advised golf would also affect softball. There are a lot of young kids that are playing hockey, but he did not know what lies ahead in the future. Councilperson Runyan stated people's interests have changed. Mr. Taute stated a lot of the guys that are playing softball played when he started playing. Don Runyon asked if the ball fields could be made non-smoking so people like him could go down there and watch ball games. Councilperson Ockerman stated outdoor no smoking. Mayor Billis stated the schools have campus free no smoking. He further stated he went to a game in Cincinnati over the weekend at a school, and there were people smoking in the stands. It drives the people who do not smoke out. Mr. Sawyer stated the city might be able to put some no smoking restrictions in the bleachers. Mr. Taute stated that was something that could be discussed at the softball meeting since the league rules are going to be discussed anyway. Councilperson Ockerman stated vandalism is a problem too. The city is incurring vandalism because of who is coming in. He further stated he understands that people are paying because he has been there, but the commission has to understand the city's situation. The fields are still on the backs of the people in the city. He also stated he felt the council has been very cooperative but he does not really feel it has come the other way. There has been a whole great deal of disrespect towards this council and Mr. Taute can disagree with that all he wants but he and others have been there. The commission needs to clean that up if the commission wants cooperation from this council.

Larry LeCureux stated he went downtown today and the downtown looks real nice. Mayor Billis stated he has been to California and has seen what the roads look like after an earthquake.

Judy Horton asked if the city was at a standstill now and what the city was waiting for. Mr. Sawyer advised the curb and gutter would be poured tomorrow and there is a good chance that Mack Street and Corunna Avenue would be asphalted this week if it does not rain. He further advised the rain has slowed down the construction, and when this happens, the contractors look for other work to do that has be finished before they can come back. He also advised the construction is on schedule right now. Councilperson Runyan stated he has had several people ask why the lights are not on. Mr. Sawyer advised the city had to get addresses established before Consumers Energy would install the electrical meters, and now, Consumers Energy wants to see a state electrical inspection certificate, which the city was not aware of so the city is waiting on the state inspector right now. He further advised the switch is ready to be pulled and if all goes well the lights will be on a week ago.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to leave the regular meeting and go into executive session to discuss possible land acquisitions and to invite Tim Crawford and Janet Washburn into the closed session. Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Hornus, Mehig, Dumond.
No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:55 p.m.

Mehig moved, Bayless seconded to leave the executive session and return to the regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.
No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:25 p.m.

No action was taken during the closed session.

ADJOURN: Hornus moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Mehig, Runyan.
No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:27 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK